

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baldwin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,139,226). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites, *inter alia*, a body provided with fluid passageways and having an inlet and an outlet such that more than one of said passageways lead to said outlet. Fig. 3 clearly shows that the valve has a body having an inlet 10, an outlet 90, and multiple passageways (70, 80) leading to the outlet. Baldwin, however, does not teach a body provided with more than one fluid passageway leading to the outlet. Rather, Baldwin teaches a single passageway between the inlet 73 and outlet 77. Moreover, claim 1 recites one or more valve members for inhibiting fluid flow through the passageways. Baldwin, however, teaches only one valve member 98 for controlling flow through the one passageway. By providing more than one passageway, and selectively controlling the flow through each passageway to allow flow through none, one, or more of the passageways, the present invention provides an improved degree of control over the flow through the body when compared with prior art valves such as Baldwin, where the flow is either "on" or "off."

Thus, Baldwin does not teach what is claimed, and claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. As such, the claims depending therefrom are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is the Applicant's position that claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration by the Examiner and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward G. Greive". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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